

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An anti-microbial, curable silicone rubber composition comprising a homogeneous mixture of silicone rubber, ~~in at least a portion of the exposed surface of said composition~~ an organic matrix and ~~containing homogeneously dispersed~~ particles of metallic silver having a particle size in the range of 1 to 50 nm (silver nanoparticles) in an amount providing ~~on the surface of~~ in said composition an anti-microbially effective but less than cytotoxic silver concentration.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 1, characterized by comprising said silver nanoparticles in an amount such that after curing an anti-microbially effective but less than cytotoxic ~~providing a~~ silver concentration of from more than 1 nmol/l to less than 1 μ mol/l is provided on at least a portion of the surface of said cured silicone rubber composition.

Claim 3 (Previously amended): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 2, characterized in that said organic matrix comprises said silver nanoparticles in an amount of 1 to 2000 ppm.

Claim 4 (Previously amended): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 3, characterized by comprising silver nanoparticles having a particle size of 2 to 20 nm.

Claim 5 (Previously amended): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 1, characterized in that said organic matrix comprises an organic fluid wherein said silver nanoparticles are dispersed.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 5, characterized in that said ~~viscous~~ organic fluid is ~~comprises an aliphatic or aromatic~~

~~hydrocarbon, a mineral oil, petrolatum, glycerol, a fatty alcohol, polypropylene glycol, an animal and/or vegetable oil or fat, or a silicone oil~~ selected from the group consisting of: aliphatic hydrocarbons, aromatic hydrocarbons, mineral oils, petrolatum, glycerol, fatty alcohols, polypropylene glycol, animal oils, vegetable oils, silicone oils and combinations thereof.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): A method for manufacturing a curable, anti-microbial silicone rubber composition comprising the steps of:

- providing a curable silicone rubber composition in a configuration ready for mixing;
- providing ~~a liquid~~ an organic matrix comprising comprised of an organic fluid, said organic matrix having particles of metallic silver having with a particle size in the range of 1 to 50 nm dispersed therein;
- ~~mixing combining~~ said liquid organic matrix ~~into~~ and said silicone rubber composition;
- optionally curing the ~~mixture~~ combination of said silicone rubber composition ~~with~~ and said organic matrix.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 3, characterized by comprising silver nanoparticles having a particle size of 5 to 10 nm.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 2, characterized in that said organic matrix comprises said silver nanoparticles in an amount of 5 to 1000 ppm.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 9, characterized by comprising silver nanoparticles having a particle size of 2 to 20 nm.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 9, characterized by comprising silver nanoparticles having a particle size of 5 to 10 nm.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 2, characterized in that said organic matrix comprises said silver nanoparticles in an amount of 10 to 250 ppm.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 12, characterized by comprising silver nanoparticles having a particle size of 2 to 20 nm.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 12, characterized by comprising silver nanoparticles having a particle size of 5 to 10 nm.